

## A New Texan *Coryphanta*

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Like Africa, the Trans-Pecos region of Western Texas would seem to hold in store for the taxonomist "semper aliquid novi." Mr. A. R. Davis of Marathon has recently sent me for determination specimens of a diminutive form of the genus *Coryphanta* for which I have found no established species, it being quite distinct from *Coryphanta Nickelsae* (K. Brandegees) Britton & Rose, and *Coryphanta radians* (D. C.) Britton & Rose, which it resembles more closely than any other species I know. The description of the type may be given as follows: "*Coryphanta Nellieae* Croizat sp. nov.—Plant small, simple or more seldom (one specimen of six observed) sparingly caespitose, with a cylindrical body up to 4.5 cm. long, the hypogeal part 2–3 cm. long; ribs 8–14; tubercles grooved, 2 mm. long; areolae scarcely woolly; central spine wanting; radial spines 13–18, spreading to slightly appressed, straight, rarely curved sidewise, yellowish at the base otherwise white, occasionally pinkish; 2, 3, or 4 of the spines stouter than the rest and up to 4–4.5 mm. long, short-acuminate; 4, 5 or 6 of the spines slender, acicular or bristle-like, about 2 mm. long; flower, including the ovary (hypanthium) 1–1.5 cm. long, persistent; perianth about 1 cm. long; sepals lanceolate to cuneate, acute or acuminate, greenish; petals purplish or purple, oblanceolate to spatulate, obtuse; ovary cylindrical, naked; fruit (berry) and seeds not seen.

Planta pusilla simplex, raro caespitosa, cylindrica, ad 4.5 cm. longa, parte hypogea 2–3 cm. Costis 8–14, tuberculis rima percursis, 2 mm. longis; areolis vix lanosis; spina centrali nulla; spinis radialibus 13–18 ex patentibus tenuiter adpressis, rectis, raro ad latus incurvis, basi luteis caeterumque albis, interdum roseatis; 2–4 spinis caeteris robustioribus ad 4–4.5 mm. longis, breviter acuminatis; 4–6 spinis setarum adspertum fingentibus, tenuiter aciculatis, circa 2 mm. longis; flore (cum hypanthio) 1–1.5 cm. longo, persistenti: perianthio ad 1 cm. longo; sepalis e lanceolatis cuneatis, acutis vel acuminatis, viridescensibus; petalis purpureis vel purpurascensibus ex oblanceolatis spatulatis, obtusis; ovario cylindrico, nudo; fructum seminaque non vidi.

In limestone formation at 4000 feet altitude, about 4 miles south of Marathon, Brewster County, Texas.

Named for Mrs. Nellie Davis, wife of the collector of the type specimen.—Early spring—Type specimen in the Herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden.

This Cactus is found in a restricted area on the slopes of high hills in gravelly soil, living in places where a temperature as low as 28 degrees is sometimes recorded for short periods of time. It blossoms late in years of drought. No specimens have been collected so far that form more than six heads.

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